



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Infection Prevention Week

WHEREAS, protecting the health of Americans includes providing every citizen with access to safe and effective health care; and

WHEREAS, infection preventionists are devoted to patient and healthcare worker safety and are committed to reducing the risk and occurrence of healthcare-associated infections; and

WHEREAS, every year, healthcare-associated infections are among the leading causes of death in the United States, accounting for an estimated 1.7 million infections and 99,000 associated deaths in 2002; and

WHEREAS, the financial burden attributed to healthcare-associated infections is staggering and represents an estimated \$28 billion to \$33 billion in excess healthcare costs each year, and \$6.5 billion in the United States alone; and

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization, it is estimated that at any time over 1.4 million people worldwide suffer from infectious complications acquired in a hospital, with hospital-wide prevalence rates varying from 5% to 19% in developing countries; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for an awareness campaign to make the public aware of the importance of preventing healthcare-associated infections, thereby reducing the burden of human suffering and disease; and

WHEREAS, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, representing more than 13,000 infection preventionists, sponsors Infection Prevention Week; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim October 16 through 22, 2011 as Infection Prevention Week in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all state residents to recognize the importance of this week.



Given under my hand and the great
seal of the State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations,
this 21st day of October, 2011

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State